



035: First Response, Medical

General

Many job sites have a first response team. Its members are trained in first-aid and some other skill sets. Not all jobs have such a team, so doing that job may fall to you because of circumstances. Even where such a team exists, you can save precious time by acting before they arrive.

First response chain of authority

If you are untrained in first-aid or CPR, your top priority is to find a person who is trained and certified in first-aid. A certified person carries a card with an expiration date. You should not attempt first-aid unless there is no other choice.

If you are untrained in first-aid or CPR, always defer to a trained person.

The first-aid trained person who first comes to the aid of the injured worker is in charge until the arrival of the foreman. A first-aid trained foreman has the discretion of taking charge, allowing a first-aid non-foreman to stay in charge, or appointing another first-aid trained person to be in charge. This will continue until the arrival of the First Response team.

Report every injury case, no matter how minor, to your foreman.

First response equipment

Know the locations of first-aid kits on this job site. Most sites have such a kit in the jobsite office trailer and inside each company vehicle. If you haven't had first-aid training, ask your foreman to show you some basics about the kit and see if you can register for a first-aid class.

If you are working around acids, caustics, or flammables, know where emergency eyewash stations and emergency showers are before starting work in any area. If there is no such equipment, ask your foreman for portable versions.

Know the locations of stretchers, as you may need to transport a co-worker to an awaiting ambulance site.

First-aid treatment

Remember first-aid is not medical treatment. It is merely aid rendered to keep the person alive and to keep the injury from getting any worse, until medical personnel arrive.

Never move the victim of a fall, unless staying in that spot poses a life hazard. Instead, keep that person quiet, still, and comfortable. Don't give the victim anything to drink.

Follow the bloodborne pathogen rules.

Electrical shock

Kill the power, if you can do so quickly. Motors have a local disconnect within sight of the motor, and other devices frequently have a disconnect within sight.

If you cannot kill the power, refrain from grabbing the victim to pull him or her away—you will simply become part of the circuit. Use other methods to disengage the victim from the energy source.

Discussion leader duties for this session:

Review your first-aid training materials, and bring them with for the discussion.

What this Safety Talk covers:

Responding to a medical emergency.

Discussion notes :

